

and to which the Government has been giving considerable attention, as will be seen by reference to the report—that is the operation of one feature of the McKinley Bill—the object of that is, just as the hon. gentleman shows, the result will be to place the control of our inland fisheries, or a large portion of them, in the hands of the American dealer, and to take them out of the hands of the Canadian dealer, and I must confess that object has been, to a considerable extent, accomplished. The officer there alludes to certain facts. The hon. gentleman mentioned well-known facts regarding the Buffalo Fishing Company and their large operating fish concern, and he showed that they controlled the fisheries by mock bills of sale, mock leases and so on, whereby, for nominal consideration, they receive from the Canadian fisherman a transfer of his net. That enabled the American fish dealer to make his entry into the United States, and to show that these fish, though caught in Canadian waters, were caught in American nets. Under those circumstances, they go into the American market free. The hon. gentleman recommends as a remedy for that that no licenses should be granted unless the department is satisfied that the applicant can carry on the business himself, that he is a free and independent fisherman. On reflection, I think the hon. gentleman will see that it is hardly practicable. In the first place, the Canadian is a free and independent citizen, and, if he applies for a license, it is a rather invidious thing to tell him that he has to satisfy the department on that subject.

**Mr. LISTER.** In many instances, the American fisherman brings over his nets, but the license is taken out in the name of some one who never owned the nets at all.

**Mr. TUPPER.** That may be so ; but that is not the information which I have. I have made a very large enquiry on that subject, and have ascertained from all the fishing points what the practice is, and our officers say that the almost universal practice is what I have stated. But, after this fisherman had taken the line which the hon. gentleman suggests, we would have no means of following that up, and of ascertaining or checking what he is doing after obtaining the license, and whether he is carrying on his business for himself or for anyone else. I have known these fishermen to come to Ottawa to make their objections, and I must say with great force. I admit the force of the contention on the other side, and it would, no doubt, be a good thing if we could keep the cream of the fisheries or the profit in our own country which the American dealer now takes from the Canadian dealer. But the fisherman says he has a right to give his labour to whom he pleases, and, if he were not, he would be entirely prevented from enjoying the benefit of the market for which these fish are intended. These fishermen have urged with great strength many reasons for allowing them to take care of themselves, and to deal, if they choose, with the American dealer, provided he will deal with them on better terms than a Canadian dealer, or to deal with a middleman, who can operate in the American market more advantageously than the Canadian fisherman, for the reason which the hon. gentleman has pointed out, that the Canadian is met with the duty while the American is not. Another member from the Province of Ontario

who spoke evidently did not appreciate the point made by hon. gentlemen opposite or he would not have wondered why this fresh, delicious whitefish is not to be found in the markets of Ontario. In the province from which I come, where we are surrounded by magnificent fish, by codfish and halibut, and all those fish which are so much more delicate and substantial than even the so-much-praised whitefish, where enormous catches are made, where the vessels come in loaded down with these fish, still it is often difficult to get a fresh fish in the market. The fish are bought up by the exporters and the local trade has to take its chances. Thus the tendency being towards the export across the lakes from these western cities, and the men who come over with tugs, as we have heard, taking the fish to the other side, shows that the markets for those fish are other than those in the cities of Ontario. It is not that the fish are less. They are not less. On the contrary, the catch is increasing. Of course, there is worse luck in one year than in another, and the fishermen have to go here and there to catch their fish, as the season changes ; but the hon. member for Lambton (Mr. Lister) has shown that the catch has been increasing, and that the number of licenses granted to the fishermen has increased. I was pleased to observe the very natural and very healthy desire on the part of each representative of a fishing locality to have a fish hatchery established at once in this locality, and I can tell those hon. gentlemen that it is only owing to the modesty of other members of this House that we have not twenty or thirty more of such applications. For myself, not professing to have had enough experience to give my own opinion to the House, I can say—and it will be giving an unbiassed opinion—that I think the success in the fish hatcheries in the inland waters has been greater than in the neighbourhood of the sea coast. At all events, it is not so easily demonstrated that it has been successful when the fish may wander out to the great expanse of the Atlantic Ocean, as it is to specify the result in the land-locked waters of our inland seas. The evidence of that is the increased attention and the enlarged expenditure which have been made by the United States from year to year. I believe that Canada was the pioneer in the establishment of fish hatcheries, and yet, while our expenditure here is a mere bagatelle, only \$35,000 for all these great seas, we find that the United States Congress spend half a million a year on the fish hatcheries, in addition to more than \$300,000 spent by the different States of the Union, and the results in many of the States have been enormous. We are handicapped in our operations by the small scale upon which our operations are conducted. It seems to be the almost universal testimony that, in order to succeed in the artificial breeding of fish, the contributions of fry to the different waters each year should be on an exceedingly large scale, or it would be better not to have them at all. The one difficulty in meeting all these requests has been hinted at by one hon. gentleman, and that is the question of money. That question, of course, has met the Fisheries Department in more places than one, but the compliance with these demands for fish hatcheries would require a very large expenditure. The day may come when Parliament may take a larger view of such subjects and may consider that the Government would be